2/10/70

Dear Howard,

In a letter to you, of which I got a copy yesterday, Dick referred to Dave Lifton's selling New Orleans testimony.

If I didn't tell you before, as I thought I had, I went, very much, to keep tabs on Lifton for several reasons. These include that he has made himself my enemy, from the first, and for reasons not really clear to me or anyone who knows him better, that at best, although very bright, he suffers some mental illness, and because he is very dishonest, possibly the result of overweening ambition.

Dick's letter was not as informative on this point as it could have been. Therefore, I write to ask that you send me whatever it is Dick referred to, preferably a photocopy.

I do not encourage you to familiarize yourself with the assorted unpleasantnesses that are not of immediate concern to you, but with Lifton, I encourage you not to tell him anything and to keep Dick and me posted. Above all, do not let Lifton know you are a friend of mine, for then he will send you nothing.

He has done strange things, like taking up the cudgels for Thornley, an anarchist, if he holds any genuine belief, and the one Marine mate who would frame Oswald, and on the basis of no fact or investigation. This may be his right, but in the course of it he has invented a whole fiction about me and has done much harm by spreading it. It is likely that when Thornley comes to trial in New Orleans for perjury, this may be his defense, that I engineered his troubles. The contrary is the fact, but that is meaningless to him and Lifton. Actually, I hope they do this, for that will provide an opportunity in court to put an end to it. But such sick people are like Medusa's head. There is no end.

Lifton has done no original work in areas of your interest. He may have stolen some of it. I know he has tried to. I do not know if he has succeeded.

This can be important, so I hope you can respond promptly.

Best regards,